"Maytime" Runs 2 Weeks, Loew's, Toronto.

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

Vol. 29, No. 2 TORONTO 2, CANADA May 1st, 1937

QUICK!

(and remember that we lost no time in telling you the news!)

"THEY GAVE HIM A GUN"

Previewed in Hollywood and hailed as the biggest thrill since "Big Parade"

M-G-M of course!

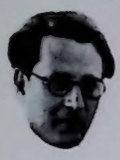
PUBLISHED BY

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST COMPANY LIMITED

259 SPADINA AVENUE, TORONTO 2

"YOU WOULDN'T FOOL US MR. STROMBERG!"

(About your new M-G-M picture "NIGHT MUST FALL")



You didn't fool us about "ROSE MARIE" Jan. 1, 1936

"Sneak previewed ROSE MARIE at Pomona last night. Sensational reception. You can proceed with one hundred per cent promises to theatres for big success."

You were too modest about "GREAT ZIEGFELD" March 9, 1936

"First sneak preview GREAT ZIEGFELD held at Oakland. It will make box-office history.

You came clean about "AFTER THE THIN MAN" Nov. 11, 1936

"Just screened AFTER THE THIN MAN in projection room. All promises for outstanding entertainment can be safely made now."

You gave us the tip-off on "MAYTIME" March 4, 1937

Previewed MAYTIME at Grauman's Chinese last night to terrific acclaim. Tell all exhibitors they can ballyhoo this

FLASH!

FROM HUNT STROMBERG IN HOLLYWOOD

"Sneak previewed NIGHT MUST FALL last night with audience reaction surpassing our highest hopes and predictions stop Audience was like man on the flying trapeze stop They were doing mental and emotional acrobatics all through the picture with gasps and screams vying with roars of laughter throughout eleven thousand feet and the result becomes all the more remarkable in view of this footage stop Seldom can dramatic stories hold up in such length but when the audience sits spellbound through the entire screening nature must take its course stop Montgomery's new characterization was like blast of dynamite with explosions in every other scene stop They thought we were kidding at first and all you could hear was buzzing and figuring stop Then when they realized that we were giving the screen possibly its most startling departure from common place characterization and story they took all the curves and dips with us hanging on for dear life as though riding a scenic railway stop Sincerely believe this picture great showmanship opportunity and urge all theatres to start talking about it now"

AND OH BOY! YOU CAN

RKO Radio's "Soldier and the Lady" Draws Biggest Business In 12 Months At Stanley, Pittsburgh.

Canadian Moving Picture DIGEST

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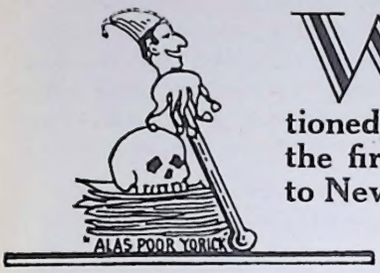
RAY LEWIS
Editor and Publisher
THE LITTLE PAPER WITH THE BIG IDEAS
"Easy to Digest"

Representatives:
Leon S. Stone
Elgin St., Gordon, N.S.W., Australia.

Vol. 29, No. 2 | TORONTO 2, CANADA | May 1st. 1937

SALLY RAND AT TORONTO



WHENEVER the name of Sally Rand is mentioned, your Editor recalls the first visit of Dr. Dafoe to New York City, at which event Walter Winchell travelled along with the famous Quintuplet doctor, just to "get a kick" out of showing him the sights of the Great White Way!

You remember, that Winchell asked Dr. Dafoe how he would have felt had Sally Rand dropped her balloon, with which she danced; and Dr. Dafoe replied, "With or without the balloon, it would be all the same to me". You see, all that Sally wore was a smile and the balloon.

Sally Rand was at Shea's. We have heard so much of "strip-tease" acts, Minsky shows, etc., etc., that Toronto the Good, turned out en masse to see the lady of the bubble fame. The tired business man was particularly in evidence.

From a woman's point of view, Sally Rand only proved what Ziegfeld knew so well, that few women are beautiful when undressed, for ask any artist and he will tell you that the perfect human form is difficult to find. Such knowledge made Ziegfeld dress up his beautiful girls in laces, furs and hoop skirts, the latter which strangely enough appears to inspire men with a desire to make whoopee!

"THE PRINCE AND THE PAUPER" HAS A WORLD CORONATION INTEREST

THE production of "The Prince and the Pauper", Mark Twain's romantic adventure story, by Warner Bros. is a particularly timely feature, since Coronation news is front page world news today.

The Mark Twain classic revolves around two boys, one, the Prince of Wales, the other, a pauper of Offal Court.

The Coronation ceremony, one of the highlights of this picture, is a reproduction of a Sixteenth Century English Coronation Service. The service probably dates back to the crowning ceremonies of Henry VIII, in 1509, and follows the ceremonies which crowned Edward VI, in 1547, Mary 1, in 1553, Elizabeth in 1559, and James I, in 1603, all of which are the forerunners of the present English Coronation Ceremonies.

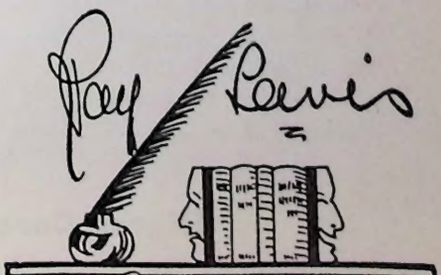
There are over thirty characters in "The Prince and the Pauper", with but one important woman's role.

The story dealt with a plot by the Earl of Hertford to gain control of England following the death of Henry VIII.

Motion picture audiences will remember this bit of history from the story of "Tudor Rose", or "Nine Days a Queen". In the latter picture Henry VIII names the order of succession, and one gets an introduction to the Prince of Wales, reintroduced in Mark Twain's "Prince and the Pauper".

The Prince of Wales and the pauper lad resemble each other so closely, that when the pauper is rescued from a palace guard by the Prince, and these two change clothes in a spirit of boyish fun, the pauper lad comes very close to being crowned King, at Westminster.

The romantic adventure story appears to be most popular, and Warner Bros., who have a knack for history, historical characterizations, world events, and scientific discoveries, have again selected a story with a presentation of a ceremony which has for the past year been making world history!



RAY PRESENTS

RAY LEWIS

WE are in the midst of our busiest time in the season, for this is the time when production plans are thought out and fought out. When you are told that everybody who is anybody is in conference, or at a screening, you may feel assured that the secretary is not trying to be polite to you, but that the huddle is on.

Spending millions of dollars to make millions of dollars is a serious business; and the production of over 500 pictures is enough to give our Industry a few headaches, for, in addition to securing suitable story material, directorial, star and player talent, technical skill, building sets, finding locations, costuming, atmospheric accessories, holding conventions to "pep" up sales forces, to determine possible revenues, to map out publicity, exploitation and advertising compaigns, the placing of the right stars and players, the right directors with the right material, there are just a few hundred other odds and ends which go into the production of a major programme of pictures.

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER is to have fifty-two features for its season of 1937-38; 20th Century-Fox has a program of sixty; RKO Radio's line up looks like forty-eight; Universal is mapping out forty-two; Paramount lining up approximately fifty-six; United Artists close to forty, while Warner Bros. plan a formidable program of sixty.

In addition to these majors, Columbia plans close to fifty; Grand National sixty-five; Republic over sixty and Gaumont-British about twenty-four, the combined effort being well over the five hundred mark, not overlooking Monagram which plans about forty pictures for its new producer-distributor's company, and not taking into consideration the foreign production market and other Independents.

Meanwhile, Convention dates are as follows; M-G-M at the Ambassador, Los Angeles, May 2nd; Paramount at the Ambassador, June 10th to 13th; RKO Radio, Los Angeles, June 15th; Warner Bros., New York, May 10th to 13th; Twentieth-Century Fox, Los Angeles, May 31st to June 3rd; Gaumont-British two conventions, one at Hollywood first week in June and the other in New York second week of June; Grand National, Los Angeles, May 16th to 19th. Universal's date looks like June; United Artists', first week in June, with Chicago the point of concourse and contact.

EXHIBITORS are naturally interested in these conventions, for what takes place in respect to pictures and policies directly concerns the exhibitor. If coming events cast their shadows before, we may expect more percentage arrangements through the fact that bigger pictures are in order.

Color will be used more extensively. There will be several reissues of popular pictures since the tryout on these has been found to be excellent box-office. The shorts will have a leading place, the Westerns a new lease of popularity, the Independents will return stronger than they have ever been since their first days of productivity, musicals will be popular, and the road show picture more frequent since the return to the good old days of long runs.

AMONG the new company's plans, I notice that "Time", that magazine of which I hear rumours regarding circulation placing it in the million class, will produce a series of two-reel subjects entitled, "Life". RKO Radio will release the series, one monthly. "The March of Time" is this same company's product, and an RKO Radio release.

Advance Pictures will have twelve pictures to release through Guaranteed Pictures, the first ready by September 1st. Steve Wilkenson will supervise production.

Our old friend M. H. Hoffman is associate producer, with Arthur Rosson as director for Condor productions of which George Hirliman is president and Frank M. Snell, vice-president. Twelve musical short subjects are to be made in black and white, with some in color. Production will be for RKO and Grand National, and foreign versions for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. Ken Maynard will be starred in "Boots of Destiny"; Conrad Nagel in "The Gold Racket" and George O'Brien in "Looking For Trouble".

Danubia is expanding its distribution agencies in the U.S., it will release five Hungarian productions.

(Continued on Page 7)

Digest Coronation Souvenir Out Coronation Week.

London Roundabout
by DENNISON THORNTON

CORONATION NEWS

FOUR film records of the King's life have been produced by British and American companies.

First on the market was Paramount's "Crown and Glory", compiled from newsreel records of the Royal Family, with one or two staged sequences thrown in here and there. Pictures includes "primitive" shots of Queen Victoria riding in her carriage, and Edward VII visiting France to bring about the famous "Entente Cordiale". It was this stroke of diplomacy that earned him the title of "Edward the Peacemaker".

The ex-Kaiser appears quite prominently in the sequences devoted to the early part of King George V's reign. Perhaps highlight of the production are scenes around Sarajevo taken just after the famous assassination "incident" that started the great war.

WARNER BROTHERS have contributed "The King's People", produced by the late John Drinkwater. This covers all outstanding events from the time of Queen Victoria to the present day. Prominent people provide commentaries as the film progresses — Bernard Shaw, Lady Astor, the late Sir Austen Chamberlain, and actress Mary Clare who played the heroine in the original stage production of "Cavalcade" in London.

AN independent producer, Widgey Newman, celebrates the Coronation with "Our Royal Heritage" which includes scenes actually taken for this production inside Buckingham Palace and Marlborough House.

"THE HOUSE OF WINDSOR" made by Pathe Picture, is a straight "documentary" record of the social life of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. An outstanding feature of this production is the slick way in which it has been edited. Whoever pieced the picture together deserves to have had his name printed in big letters in the credit titles. As it is he or she receives no credit at all. Why?

THE BENCH CAN'T TAKE IT?

TWENTY thousand British magistrates are up-in-arms. They are objecting to comedian Robb Wilton's radio sketches burlesquing magistrates and police court procedure. They have lodged a protect with the British Broadcasting Corporation on the grounds that the sketches hold the Bench up to ridicule. And if they don't get satisfaction from the BBC in the matter they threaten to take their grievances to the "higher authorities".

In other words twenty thousand British magistrates can't take it. They can't take a little harmless fun at their expense; they are incapable of laughing at themselves.

Commenting on the protest comedian Wilton says: "I am amazed to think that any public body could have made themselves so ridiculous. Soon you won't be able to burlesque anybody at this rate. I once burlesqued a policeman before an audience of 2,000 policemen. They loved it. Policemen still have a sense of humour. Sitting on the bench seems to have destroyed all sense of humour in the magistrates."

How right you are, Mr. Wilton. And what laughter there'll be in heaven when Gilbert and Sullavan hear the news!

RAY PRESENTS

(*Continued from Page 4*)

The Garrison Film Distributors Inc., will release three shorts and four features, the latter will include a play by Gogol, "Inspector General", with a Russian background, a Mexican production with English titles, and two French productions. The shorts will belong to a series dealing with everyday events in the world and titled, "The World of Today".

Maurice Conn is working out production plans for Ambassador, Conn and Melody Pictures of which companies he is respectively the president.

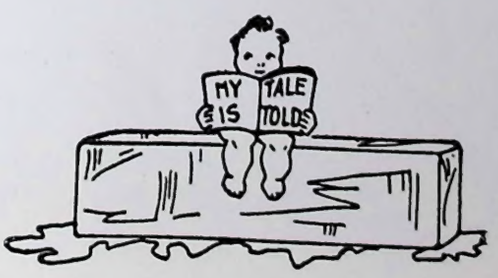
Imperial has established exchanges in many key points across the United States. Thirty-two pictures are its schedule. They include ten Jewel productions, eight musicals, eight action dramas and six exploitation specials.

MONOGRAM, W. Ray Johnston's company, newly organized, has another old friend whom exhibitors and the trade in Canada will remember, George E. Kann, production manager. Mr. Kann has nine features in preparation, two of which have been completed, "The Outer Gate" from the novel by Octavus Roy Cohen, I do not have to introduce the author, do I, exhibitors? In the cast is one of the screen's favorites, Ralph Morgan and Kay Linsker. "The Legion of Mining Men" is the second completed feature with Ralph Forbes and Ben Alexander.

Columbia has assigned three of it big pictures to Sidney Bucham; "The Man Who Won The War" — "I Married An Artist" — a comedy drama. Of the latter title you should inquire of me, for I should know something about that kind of a title, since I too, married an artist. The third title for Bucham is, "Absent Without Leave".

Three stories go to Myles Connolly. Frank Capra's first will be a story based on the life of Chopin and starring Francis Lederer, who will also star in "Cape of Good Hope". William Perlberg will get "Thanks For Nothing"; "There's Always A Woman" — "Twas The Night Before Christmas".

For Grace Moore there is "The Sound of Your Voice" by Everett Riskin, and for Oscar Hammerstein II, a committment to write and produce a musical.



"Wings of the Morning" Continues Sensational Run, Uptown, Toronto.
Now In Its Sixth Week

DIGEST REVIEWS AND PREVIEWS

"MOUNTAIN JUSTICE"

Warner Bros.

"Jay L."

A THRILLING piece of drama, with enough comedy sprinkled through the picture to provide the necessary balance, "Mountain Justice" is another example of Warner Bros'. clever knack of taking front page stories and turning them into brilliant photoplays. A year or so ago, the press of America was full of the story of the backwoods girl, who killed her hill-billy father in a fight to prevent him from beating her. In "Mountain Justice" the theme is essentially the same, with of course, many additional twists, and the result should prove excellent box-office for all red-blooded theatre towns.

THE story presents Ruth Harkins, a young girl from a remote hill hamlet, who has attended a nursing school in the outside world. Realizing the ignorance and fanaticism and unhealthiness of her native backwoods, Ruth is determined to better conditions for the sake of the women and children of the community. With the help of Doc Barnard, her one sympathizer, Ruth intends to open a group of clinics throughout the county, where the women of the hills can bring their children for medical treatment, and can themselves apply for help during childbirth.

RUTH'S cruel and bigotted father, Jeff, is her chief enemy. He is against all "furrin" ways, and makes it a practise to knock around his daughter, and her younger sister, when they displease him, even lashing them with a bullwhip. When Jeff is arested for shooting a power company's representative, Paul Cameron, New York attorney, is sent down to prosecute the case. Paul and Ruth meet, and instantly fall in love with each other. Paul tries to persuade Ruth to go away to New York and marry him, but the girl puts him off, desiring first to establish her clinics. Paul tricks Jeff into confessing his guilt, and the hill-billy is sentenced to a short term in jail.

OUT of jail, Jeff returns home, and proceeds to beat Ruth within an inch of her life. Her mother, Meg, Doc Barnard and his fiancee of twenty years, Pheobe Lamb, help Ruth escape to New York, where she continues her studies as a nurse. Once more Paul endeavors to dissuade Ruth from her course, but is unsuccessful. With a girl friend, Evelyn Wayne, whom she met at the school, and who has invested considerable money in the clinic proposition, Ruth returns to her native community, and the first clinic is opened. Ruth attempts to make up with her father, but the latter orders her from the house. When he tries to force the young sister, Bethie, to marry Tod Miller, a cruel mountain youth, twice her age, Bethie flees to the clinic, and begs Ruth to save her. The father follows her, and confronts Ruth at the clinic. He takes out his bullwhip, and starts to lash her. A struggle ensues, Ruth fighting for her life, and suddenly Jeff staggers out of the buiding, and drops dead.

RUTH is arrested for the murder, and despite the capable defense of Paul, is given a long prison term. By a thrilling bit of strategy, involving an attempted lynching, the girl is spirited out of the jail and flown in a fast airplane to an adjoining State, whose governor, being acquainted with the details of the case, refuses to grant extradition papers for her return, and Ruth and Paul are left to face their remaining days together.

THE story packs a terrific punch, with plenty of suspense and action, but the comedy of Guy Kibbee as Doc Barnard, Margaret Hamilton as his fiancee and Fuzzy Knight as a friend of the Doc's, successfully balance the otherwise sober plot. Miss Hutchinson and George Brent turn in excellent performances, but it is the work of Robert Barrat, in a role somewhat similar to the one in "Trail of the Lonesome Pine", that particularly caught our fancy. Barrat is so thoroughly bad, that you want to leap onto the stage and give him a good thrashing yourself. In real life, like the majority of the bad men, Barrat is a most charming and delightful person to meet. Guy Kibbee and Margaret Hamilton are good for many laughs, and add immeasurably to the general entertainment value of "Mountain Justice". Elizabeth Risdon gives a brilliant characterization as Ruth's mother, an unhappy mountain woman, long since resigned to her lot, but in a way, still loving her husband. Marcia Mae Jones, the hysterical child of "These Three", once more proves herself an unusually capable performer, while Robert McWade as the caustic mountain lawyer, is a perfect example of perfect casting.

THIS picture rates high in exploitation possibilities, and should click profitably in most communities. The direction of Michael Curtiz is the same high quality that is expected of that ace megger. Credit also should be given to Norman Reilly Raine and Luci Ward for a fascinating screen play.

* * *

"The Man Who Could Work Miracles"

London Films - - Korda

WRITTEN by H. G. Wells, and produced by Alexander Korda, this picture is the best English production in several months. It is well directed by Lother Mendes, and the general production is infinitely better than anything sent over from the Old Country for a long time. The sound, which to this reviewer at least, is a very important factor in judging whether a picture is good or bad, is excellent, without any of that rasping, annoying tone that so many English pictures are noted for.

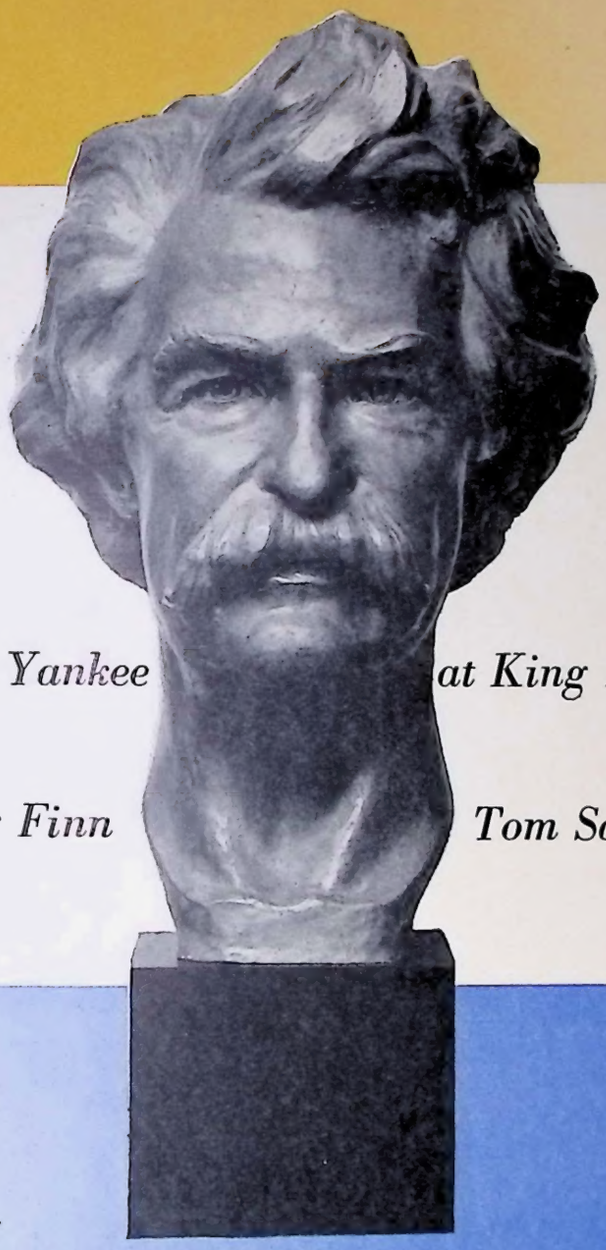
PICTURE opens with three of the heavenly personages gazing down at the little planet called "Earth", and discussing the peculiarities and weaknesses of the silly inhabitants of the planet. One of the three, whose privilege it is to grant power to anyone, decides to give one of the inhabitants the power to work miracles, and Roland Young, an unimportant department store worker, is selected for the honour. The difficulties that beset the bewildered man, when he discovers his gift, make both a comedy and a thought-provoking drama. In the end, Young, fed up with all the advice given to him by others, decides to use his power to establish a world that suits HIM. He calls all the rulers and important men of the world before him, and gives them a short time in which to figure out a way to stop war, once and for all. When

(Continued on Page 13)

Warner's To Make 20 Pictures In England During Coming Year.

TO THE EVERLASTING GLORY OF

Mark Twain



A Connecticut Yankee *at King Arthur's Court*

Huckleberry Finn *Tom Sawyer*

The screen now adds his world-worshipped adventure epic

magnificently immortalized by the cameras of WARNER BROS.

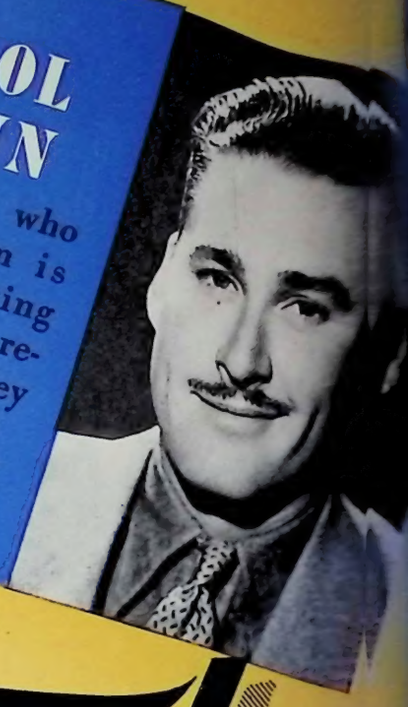
L THESE TREMENDOUS VA

THE BOOK

Better known, bet-
er loved than all
e other great
rks of America's
ter of romance
d adventure,
RK TWAIN

ERROL FLYNN

Every patron who has seen him is ready and waiting for this rousing re-turn of the star they flocked to see in 'GREEN LIGHT'



THE COR-ONATION

You can show your
atrons the same
remony that will
e place in Eng-
l—but you and
you will have it
AYS AHEAD

The

THE BIG CAST

supporting artists and 1000's more—
DE RAINS, HENRY STEPHENSO
ON MacLANE, ERIC

The

The

UES ARE SOLIDLY BEHIND IT!

THE TWINS

The most unique star-team in 10 years —in the story that could have been written *only* for

BILLY & BOBBY MAUCH

24-SHEET CAMPAIGN

History's broadest billboard build-up will cover the country for 30 days, actually

IN 1400 NATION-WIDE CITIES

The Prince and the Pauper

THE MUSIC

Composed by Eric Wolfgang Korngold whose score for 'Anthony Adverse' won the year's

ACADEMY AWARD

THE SETTINGS

World's biggest studio wasn't big enough—complete new stages were especially built for

SCOPE NEVER BEFORE SEEN

Warner Bros.

WILL RELEASE IT TO

275 THEATRES

ON MAY 8th!

"THE PRINCE
and
THE PAUPER"
by MARK TWAIN
with
ERROL FLYNN
CLAUDE RAINS • HENRY STEPHENSON
Barton MacLane and
THE MAUCH TWINS
BILLY & BOBBY
Eric Portman and Thousands of others

Conklin In Winnipeg

J. J. Conklin

ADDITIONAL evidence that film folk often guess wrong when trying to judge the public's possible acceptance of their product, is furnished by "Wings of the Morning", the beautiful British all color picture held for its third consecutive week at the Metropolitan in Winnipeg, and from all standards one of the finest pictures ever shown in Winnipeg.

When this picture first reached the United States from Britain, no particular preparations had been made for it. "Just another picture" in the minds of Hollywood and New York. No special effort was made to publicize or build it. In fact it was treated just about as some decidedly mediocre offerings are treated. Suddenly it commenced to attract attention among film patrons. Critics, at first guardedly, and then in superlatives, pointed out that here was something from Britain that had everything a picture requires for success. Special advertising campaigns were launched for it and the busines grew. The rest is history. In at least half a dozen Canadian houses, including the Metropolitan, it has broken records and won extended engagements, and the end is not yet, for requests for return engegements have poured in on the distributors. "It just bears out what I have always said," was the remark of one film man this week: "If the men in this business could always estimate just what the public wants we would all be millionaires." And as "Wings of the Morning" goes into its third week at the Metropolitan, the fine attendance record still keeps up.

* * *

"PICTURES of Canadian outdoor life usually show some gents in fancy dress, skiing down a hill. I want to show Great Britain and the United States some true pictures of our outdoor life — canoeing on the great rivers and lakes, real camping, snowshoeing, travelling in a real blizzard," said the nature study photographer, Chief Grey Owl, when he passed through Winnipeg recently from making a moving picture in Quebec.

* * *

MR. EDDIE NEWMAN of the Lyceum Theatre staff in Winnipeg is managing the Winnipeg Orpheum.

John A. Schuberg, who is associated with H. N. Jernberg in the management of the Province and Bijou Theatres, came to Winnipeg this week from his home in Vancouver and is in consultation with Mr. Jernberg in regard to pictures to be shown at the Province and Bijou during the spring and summer.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Morton of the Garrick Theatre ownership, have returned from a pleasant trip to New York and other Eastern cities.

* * *

A MOVING picture theatre will be built on Marion street, St. Boniface, by Mrs. M. Brown, at a cost of $25,000. It will be one storey in height, 42 by 110 feet in dimensions, of brick material and stone front, with all modern equipment and safety appliances.

IN THE MARITIMES

BY ALICE FAIRWEATHER

AUTHORITIES in the Maritimes are paying very strict attention to Fire regulations in theatres, and many practices, which have been allowed in the past, are being entirely eliminated. There are very few intinerants owing to the fact that all theatres must be inspected and passed, and some upstairs theatres, which were allowed to be used formerly, are now closed by order of Government officials.

SPENCER CIRCUIT EXPANDS

KENTVILLE, N.S., is to have a new theatre so it has been announced by Mr. F. G. Spencer. Work has been started and it is hoped that the theatre will be completed by August. The F. G. Spencer Company has acquired the Ward property and on it, will erect an attractive and modern theatre. The Company already owns and operates the Capitol Theatre at Kentville, but the newer building will follow the lines of those built at Amherst and Truro. The property has a 150 feet frontage and is 250 feet deep. The theatre will be 58 feet wide by 135 deep and will have a seating capacity of 1,000, with standing room for several hundred more. To accommodate local requirements, in the way of theatricals, an adequate stage will be arranged for, with dressing rooms complete with up-to-date requirements.

Mr. Spencer plans to retain the older theatre as in the case at many of the other towns where the Company owns and operates two theatres.

THEATRE BENEFIT SHOW

WITH his usual generosity, Mr. R. J. Macadam of the Casino Theatre, Halifax, N.S., gave his theatre recently for a benefit arranged by the Colored Baptist Church. The films were provided by one of the Distributing Companies through the Maritimes Film Board of Trade and gratefully acknowledged by Mr. Macadam.

* * *

DIGEST REVIEWS AND PREVIEWS

(*Continued from Page* 8)

they beg for time, he makes the earth stop rotating, so that they can complete their work before sunset. Of course, everyone is tossed into space, but Young, who has made himself immune to death, works his last miracle, changing everything back the way it was before, and begging that the power to work miracles be taken away from him.

ROLAND YOUNG, as the befuddled man-in-the-street, who suddenly finds himself the most important personage in the whole world, gives a performance worthy of this clever English star. Young has appeared in many pictures, a few as the star, and many others in an important supporting role, and I can safely say, that his work in "The Man Who Could Work Miracles", is as good, if not better than anything he has done before.

OTHERS in the cast deserving special mention include Ralph Richardson as Colonel Winstanely, Ernest Thesiger as Mr. Maydig and Lady Tree as a housekeeper.

THE picture is being released in Canada by Regal Films Limited.

"Jay L."

M-G-M's "Captains Courageous" Follows "Good Earth" At Astor, N.Y., As Two-a-Day Road Show.

WASHINGTON FILM DIGEST

(Special to The Digest by George W. Mehrtens, Columbia Trade Press Staff Correspondent)

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 27—(CTP)

WITH the present session of Congress approximately half over observers close to the Motion Picture Industry are beginning to express interest over the apparent marking-time attitude of almost all of the Congressmen sponsoring moving picture legislation. Of all the bills that have been introduced and re-introduced this session there appear to be little if any action on any one of them. The chief reason given for the delay is of course the Supreme Court controversy.

Congressman Samuel Pettengill, of Indiana, father of the all-important block-booking measure, while stating that he expects action on his bill this session nevertheless has taken no initiative to start the wheels moving.

Congressman Sam Hobbs, who some weeks back, like a bombshell to the industry, introduced his House Resolution calling for a thorough investigation of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America, also states that he will press for hearings. According to the House Committee on Rules under which the Congressman's bill will come for discussion, there has been scheduled no date as yet for testimony. The Congressman himself is equally in the dark as to when any action will be taken on the measure referring all interested parties to the Rules Committee.

Congressman Francis D. Culkin, of New York, who also had a block-booking bill, and which measure is now before the Federal Trade Commission for examination, declares flatly that he will allow Congressman Pettengill to take the initiative since the original need for his measure namely the moral angle of the Motion Picture Industry, is no longer as important as it was when the bill was first introduced.

Hearings on the Duffy Copyright measure may be set this week although it appears doubtful. Senator F. Ryan Duffy, of Wisconsin, told this correspondent he had had several conferences with the chairman of the Patents Committee in the Senate and that action was not far off.

Meanwhile Senator Joseph Guffey, of Pennsylvania, introduced into the upper house the companion measure to that introduced by Congressman J. Burwood Daly, providing for copyright protection for the interpretors of musical and motion picture compositions. It is the general consensus of opinion however, that practically all of the pending legislation will be carried over to the second session of the 75th Congress.

TAX COLLECTIONS UP

A SHARP upturn in admissions tax collections in March, bringing them to the highest point so far this year, $1,539,408 was disclosed in the monthly report of the Treasury Department's bureau of Internal Revenue this week.

March receipts were $66,056 above the February total of $1,475,353 and $284,000 above the March 1936 collections of $1,255,393, the Bureau reported.

Indications that the bulk of the improved theatre business in March was largely outside the Metropolitan centres are seen in figures for the Broadway district of New York where total tax collections were but $511,185.

WARNER THEATRE DRIVE

CONTINUING their building drive Warner Bros. Theatres this week announced a plan for immediate construction of four new theatres in the District of Columbia and surrounding territory, to cost approximately $2,000,000. Accrding to J. J. Payette, general zone manager for Warners, the neighborhood houses will be built in Tenlaytown, Bethesda, Silver Springs and Northeast Washington and each will seat between 1,000 and 1,500, and will be equipped with air conditioning apparatus.

Payette described the plan for the four new theatres as an extension of the building program announced in December 1935. Since that time, four new houses have been added to the circuit. The exact locations of the new establishments have not yet been set, however. With the new additions the circuit in this territory will comprise twenty houses in all.

FILM EXPORT INCREASE

MOTION picture films, sensitized, not exposed, reached a new high in exports hitting a total dollar value of $4,360,000, it was revealed here this week according to a special survey made by the Foreign Commerce Department of the United States Chamber of Commerce. According to the report, there were exported during the period of 1936, 284,319,000 linear feet of film.

POULTRY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

IN Germany, the Nazis order hens to lay eggs. But in the United States we do things differently as evidenced by the United States Department of Agriculture which yesterday announced that it is ready to release a new three reeler, "The National Poultry Improvement Plan", in which the audience may see for themselves just how our feathered friends may be induced to lay bigger and better eggs.

The picture is available both in 35 mm and 16 mm and is a talkie. The Department also announced the release of two other pictures ready, "The Cicada", a two-reeler; "Smoke", a one-reeler.

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BRITISH FILM DIGEST

(Special to The Digest by Ward Shaftesbury, London Correspondent)

THINGS are likely to start hopping around Wardour Street any time now, but they haven't begun to jump as yet. The fact that quite a few American film moguls are in town (and not to see the Coronation either) augurs interesting developments in the Industry for the near future — the big nobs of 20th Century-Fox, Sydney Kent and W. J. Hutchinson, just stepped off the boat and that sounds very much as if the Gaumont-British excitement is not quite over. Well, we shall have to wait and see.

STUDIO ACTIVITY

THE studios are ambling along at a modest pace these days. Capitol's "Jericho" unit just arrived back from the Egyptian desert after seven weeks of shooting in the hot sun. They tell me that the film was processed almost in the shadow of the great Pyramids where new laboritories belonging to the Cairo studios are as modern as the minute. Over here they are shooting on the Pinewood stage and from what I have heard of the story there should be some pretty exciting sequences — shots of panic scenes on a troopship shortly after it has been torpedoed, a hand-to-hand battle in the desert between native tribes, a salt caravan made up of thousands of camels. The picture features Paul Robeson, Henry Wilcoxon, Wallace Ford and Princess Kouka (who, by the way, was left back in Egypt) . . . A new Edgar Wallace thriller — "The Squeaker" — is going into production at Denham. Edmund Lowe and Elizabeth Allan will star . . . I told you about Claude Hulbert and the Parisian Aquarium last week — well this week its a French henhouse and not a fish-house. It seems that Glenda Farrell and Claude were all set to start work in a farmyard scene for "Have You Come For Me?" — Half the studio had been converted into a farmyard complete with cowsheds and outhouses, and dozens of hens had been brought in to give reality to the setting — all of a sudden the hens decided that they preferred their native hunting-ground and made a wild and noisy dash off the set. It took an hour of luring with maize to get the homesick birds back into range of the camera. No trouble was experienced with the cow which chewed its cud quite contentedly throughout all the commotion — a difference of temperament I suppose. . . .

NEW FANS FOR OLD

THE manager of a cinema in York had a very excellent idea recently. He decided that there must be a few people in Yorkshire who had never seen a film—he made inquiries, drew up a list of names and ultimately invited all those on his list to come to his cinema and see "Theodora Goes Wild" without charge. One farm-labourer kept his seat until he discovered a modern train coming at him at high speed out of the screen — grabbing his hat, the farmer scampered up the aisle and out into the safety of the street. A gentleman of eighty-six, from Copenthorpe, enjoyed himself thoroughly, a lady of seventy-five described the show as "very nice indeed". In the light of this, I wonder how many Canadians, living out in the northern farming districts have never seen a film. Quite a few, I should imagine.

CORONATION FILMS

PREPARATIONS for filming the Coronation Service in Westminster Abbey are going on apace. Test pictures have already been taken by technicolour experts and these have been screened before the Duke of Norfolk who, as Earl Marshall, is in charge of the Abbey cermony. Positions have already been given out for the "black and white" cameras. I understand that one will be set in the triforium above the chancel and facing the choir, while another will be perched above the west door to get shots of the outgoing procession. It is rumoured that negotiations have been entered into with Dufay-Chromex and it is intended that a Dufay colour film of the ceremony will be shown in America the day following the Coronation — transport will be achieved by a Douglas aeroplane flying across the Atlantic.

IRISH FILM INDUSTRY

I UNDERSTAND that there is a movement afoot to establish an Irish film industry. Legal advice has already been obtained and it is said that there are already many subscribers to the plan which is said to entail a matter of half a million dollars.

HAMILTONIAN AWARDED CONTRACT

JUST heard from Irving Asher, managing director of Warner Bros.-First National Productions at Teddington that he has given a contract to Ross Lumsden, a young Canadian who was born at Hamilton, Ontario. Ross is about twenty-four years old and has had only two summers' experience in repertory in Canada and Massachusetts. He came to England last September to seek his fortune and managed to get a small part in a picture — he did so well that Irving Asher has given him a long-term contract and, incidentally, a new name — Ross Landon.

FAT GROSSES FOR "THIN MAN"

"After The Thin Man" is cleaning up at the Empire, Leicester Square. I understand that M-G-M's Powell-Loy thriller will be held over for a third week owing to the heavy pressure of business.

JAPANESE NEWS-REEL PILOTS

THOSE two Japanese airmen, Masaaki Iinuma and Kenji Tsukagoshi (sounds like a bit of genteel cussing to me), who landed at Croydon recently, 94 hours after leaving Tokyo, will have something to take back with them on their homeward trip. Gaumont-British News have arranged with the flyers to take the G-B Coronation news reel back to Tokyo. This means that the Japanese will see the film just four days after the ceremony!

DAME THORNDIKE IN FILMS

DAME SYBIL THORNDIKE gave a dig at the films last week when she compared the theatre and the cinema in an address at Nottingham University College. She observed that it was the "novelette public" who liked films. The films were valuable, she said, to people who wanted to forget — the theatre was of greater value in making people more aware of things.

Winchell - Bernie Combo In 20th Century-Fox's "Wake Up and Live" Breaking All Records.

Radio Film Digest

BY JAMES LEWIS SMITH

JANET GAYNOR and Frederic March, stars of the Selznick International production, "A Star is Born", were the guests of Luella Parsons, last evening (Friday), in preview scenes from the picture. Also guest on the Hollywood Hotel program was Miss Gracie Fields, famed star of English pictures, who is in Hollywood to star in pictures for 20th Century-Fox.

* * *

TWO celebrated turf classics will be broadcast by NBC this month. The first, the Kentucky Derby, originating at Churchill Downs, in Louisville, Ky., will be broadcast exclusively over the NBC-Blue Network on Saturday, May 8, at 6.15 P.M., EDST. The second, the 45th annual running of the Preakness, at Pimlico, Maryland, will be aired over the same network on Saturday, May 15th, also at 6.15. Clem McCarthy will announce.

* * *

DARRYL F. ZANUCK, vice-president in charge of production, at 20th Century-Fox Pictures, was the guest speaker on the association of banks program, last evening, April 30th.

The program featured the music of the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Pierre Monteux.

The orchestral program included Ravel's "Tomb of Couperin" and the familiar Dukas poem, "The Sorcerer's Apprentice".

* * *

IN honor of the Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, the Carnation Contented program of May 10th, will be made up entirely of Coronation and British music.

The orchestra, under the direction of Frank Black, will play "Coronation March" from Meyerbeer's "The Prophet", and accompany the quartet in "The Changing of the Guard".

Program comes over the NBC-Red Network, Monday evenings, at 10.00 P.M., EDST.

* * *

Doris Nolan, glamorous star of the New Universal's million dollar musical spectacle, "Top of the Town".

Australian Film Digest

by LEON STONE

J. E. KENNEBECK PASSES

THE Paramount organization suffered a severe loss in the death (after an appendicitis operation) of its Australian chief, John E. Kennebeck, aged 40, at Sydney. His sudden passing was a blow to the entire film trade as he was universally respected and admired.

A staunch Roman Catholic, Kennebeck had been honored by the Pope with the high order of Knight Commander of St. Gregory the Great — one of very few in this country to be so honored. Requiem Mass was held at St. Mary Magdalene Church, Rose Bay, Sydney, at which all sections of the film industry were extensively represented. His remains are to be taken to his hometown, Omaha, U.S.A., for interment. Mrs. Kennebeck and two children survive.

N.S.W. FILM QUOTA REVIEWED

THE New South Wales Government has had the Film Quota under review following the failure of the distributing section to live up to the schedule set for 22 pictures to be released the first year which has just concluded. A minor storm broke in the local press and amongst certain sections of the industry over the fact that a number of the American distributing companies had failed in their obligations and had Government Cabinet seriously reviewing the situation.

Main trouble hinged on the interpretation of the word "acquired" in the Act. From a Government quarter it was held to mean that lacking sufficient Aussie films to handle, foreign (American) distributors *must* produce locally. The distributors themselves averred they were only responsible for acquiring such Aussie pictures as were turned out.

Columbia's "Rangle River" is the lone attempt at the end of 12 months by any American company to produce locally. American interests have been waiting to see which way "the cat would jump"; whether the N.S.W. Government would bring force to bear. Actually the Quota has been of no direct benefit to Aussie producers at all. Only Cinesound, Expeditionary, Barrier Reef, National have done anything and they have had to find their own cash. Universal distributed Expeditionary's "Uncivilized". M-G-M, Warners, RKO, Fox, Paramount, United Artists have stood pat and done nothing.

In an endeavor to untangle a mix-up of their own creating, the Government received a report from the Film Advisory Board advocating a conference of both Distributor-Producer sections. For various reasons Government is loath to enforce production by foreign distributors. In fact it has practically admitted the Quota laws have not the legal power to do so.

British Broadcasting Corp. To Televise Coronation Procession.